

Patent claims

1.-27. (cancelled)

28. (new) A method for communication and/or transmission of information between automation devices via a data transmission system, the method comprising:

    sending and/or receiving requests and/or replies by each participating automation device, wherein

    the communication and/or transmission of information takes place directly between the automation devices; and

    sending an address by the automation devices directly to the automation device which submits the request.

29. (new) The method according to Claim 28, wherein the communication between the automation devices takes place in the form of peer-to-peer communication.

30. (new) The method according to Claim 28, wherein the communication and/or transmission of information takes place via an Intranet and/or Internet.

31. (new) The method according to Claim 28, wherein communication takes place via a basic service of an operating system.

32. (new) The method according to Claim 28, wherein each automation device sends a request via the data transmission system to all other automation devices of which it has knowledge.

33. (new) The method according to Claim 28, wherein all automation devices forward a request, which arrives via sending and/or receiving mechanisms, to all other automation devices which it knows, and which have not yet received the request.

34. (new) The method according to Claim 28, wherein the automation devices directly collect information from automation devices which make information available at the address which has been sent.

35. (new) The method according to Claim 28, wherein the forwarding of the request through the automation devices is canceled on the basis of a time limit.

36. (new) The method according to Claim 28, wherein the addresses of the participating automation devices are managed by a device which is connected to the data transmission system.

37. (new) An automation device for communicating with and/or transmitting information to and from further automation devices via a data transmission system, the automation device comprising:

mechanisms for sending and/or receiving requests and/or replies, wherein the mechanisms are adapted for direct communication and/or transmission of information between the automation devices, and wherein

the automation device is used for directly sending an address to an automation device which submits a request.

38. (new) The automation device according to Claim 37, wherein the mechanisms are used for peer-to-peer communication between the automation devices.

39. (new) The automation device according to Claim 37, wherein the mechanisms for sending and/or receiving are designed as a basic service of an operating system for communication.

40. (new) The automation device according to Claim 37, wherein the automation device is used for sending a request via the data transmission system to all other automation devices of which it has knowledge.

41. (new) The automation device according to Claim 37, wherein the automation device is adapted for forwarding a request, which arrives via the sending and/or receiving mechanisms, to all other automation devices which it knows, which have not yet received the request.

42. (new) The automation device according to Claim 37, wherein the mechanisms for sending and/or receiving are adapted for the direct

collection of information from automation devices which make information available at the address which has been sent.

43. (new) The automation device according to Claim 37, wherein the request comprising a mechanisms for canceling its forwarding through the automation devices on the basis of a time limit.

44. (new) An automation system comprising:

a data transmission system for communicating and/or transmitting information between automation devices; and

at least one automation device, the automation device comprising:

mechanisms for sending and/or receiving requests and/or replies, wherein the mechanisms are adapted for direct communication and/or transmission of information between the automation devices, and wherein

the automation device is adapted for directly sending an address to an automation device which submits a request.

45. (new) The automation system according to Claim 44, wherein the data transmission system is an Intranet and/or Internet.

46. (new) The automation system according to Claim 44, further comprising a device connected to the data transmission system for managing the addresses of the participating automation devices.